

REMARKS

Examiner Interview:

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner and is Supervisor for their time in an interview on October 27, 2009. During the interview, Applicant discussed the differences between its invention as claimed and the combination of references Ludvig and Chang. The Examiner suggested amending “region” to --portion-- to indicate that the region is not the entire image. The Examiner also suggested amending claim 1 to indicate that compression is being performed on digital images rather than analog images. Applicant herein has made the suggested amendments. Support for the amendments is found in Applicant’s specification at page 19, line 13, through page 22, line 18. Per the interview, the amendments overcome the present rejections.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-66 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludvig et al., US Pat. No. 6,415,437, hereinafter “Ludvig,” in view of Chan, US Published Pat. Application No. 2003/0159143.

In view of the amendments and the Remarks, per the interview with the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are overcome.

Specifically, Applicant’s invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 19, 37, 55, 59, and 63, accomplishes this by receiving two compressed images and combining them locally, such as in the set-top box. See, e.g., Applicant’s FIG. 3 and Applicant’s specification at paragraphs [0087]-[0089] as published. The first and second compressed images are compressed in a special way, as is set forth in Applicant’s independent claims. For example, Applicant’s claim 1 provides a constrained prediction process used during compression. This constrained prediction process precludes the use of information outside a portion when compressing a first image.

The combination of Ludvig and Chan simply fails to teach this limitation. By contrast, the combination of Ludvig and Chan teaches a non-customized IPG where uncompressed images (e.g., elements 504, 506, 508 of Ludvig FIG. 5A) are combined with guide information (e.g. element 510 of Ludvig FIG. 5A) in a server. This combining step, as expressly taught by Ludvig

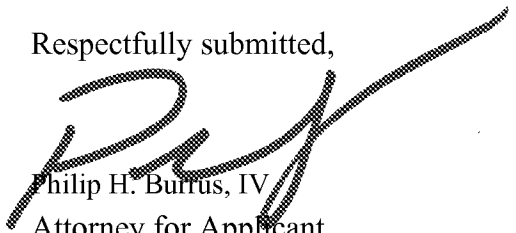
for the combination of Ludvig and Chan, occurs prior to compression. The resulting image is then compressed delivered as a single image to the set-top box. As the combination of images occurs prior to compression, there can be no representation of one segment of an image within a first region with reference to another segment of the image within the first region, as is claimed by Applicant.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicant believes the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Applicant believes this application is now in condition for allowance, for which they respectfully submit.

Respectfully submitted,



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